Made Before the Flood: A "Problem" Head from Kish.

RECONSTRUCTION-DRAWING BY MISS C. L. LEGGE. REPRODUCED BY COURTESY OF PROFESSOR S. LANGDON, DIRECTOR OF THE OXFORD-FIELD MUSEUM EXPEDITION AT KISH.
(SEE HIS ARTICLE ON ANOTHER PAGE.)

NEW EVIDENCE THAT "THE SUMERIANS WERE THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT CIVILISATION" IN MESOPOTAMIA: THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF A PAINTED HEAD MOULDED FROM A LIVING SUMERIAN BEFORE THE ART WAS LOST.

This "portrait"-head, nearly 6000 years old, is of deep significance, archæologically, in the story of man. It is an example of a lost art in Mesopotamia from days before the Flood. In his article in the present number on his wonderful discoveries at Kish, Professor Langdon refers us, for a full description of the head, to his account of it in the "Daily Telegraph" of December 13 last. "We now know from the stratification at Kish (he writes) that the great period of Sumerian painted ware lies entirely below water level, and ends there, 20 ft. below modern plain level. It is impossible to assign a date later than 4000 B.C. for the end of the coloured ceramic ware of Kish. . . . The skull and face are true to Sumerian type, and at last we have a Sumerian head, moulded true to life, of the very early period. It is a perfect specimen of the armenoid, or round-headed type. But this is only one aspect of its immense importance. The sculptor has painted it, representing the hair and beard in black, and the skin a pale reddish-yellow. . . . It is obvious that ancient peoples had the same antiquarian interests as ourselves. This coloured statue of hoary antiquity was found above the Flood stratum. . . . The colouring, the racial type, and tonsure prove that this head had been preserved at Kish since 4000 B.C. It was actually found in a level not earlier than 2400 B.C. . . . . This discovery will have a profound effect on all modern historians of antiquity. . . . One decisive fact of the utmost importance remains, and it is confirmed by Sumerian and Accadian inscriptions. The Sumerians were the founders of ancient civilisation on the banks of the 'Two Rivers.' . . . The reddish-yellow skin is perplexing. The features exclude the Mongolian type. . . . . From every point of view, this head presents the problem of the origin of civilisation in a new light."

PRINCESS ELIZA

These charming new photographs of Princess Elizabeth are a reminder that the little daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York can no longer be considered as a baby, bu
early years, and these portraits bear witness to the marked development that has taken place since her little Royal Highness "sat" in a studio in her perambulator days
double-page in colours in its issu

From the Portrait-Studies by Marc

IZABETH, 1930.

baby, but, as shown by the character and intelligence evident in her face, is fast approaching the period of girlhood. Children grow and change very rapidly in their later days. She was born on April 21, 1926. For our reproduction of the delightful picture on the left we are indebted to "The Sketch," which prints it as a in its issue dated February 5.

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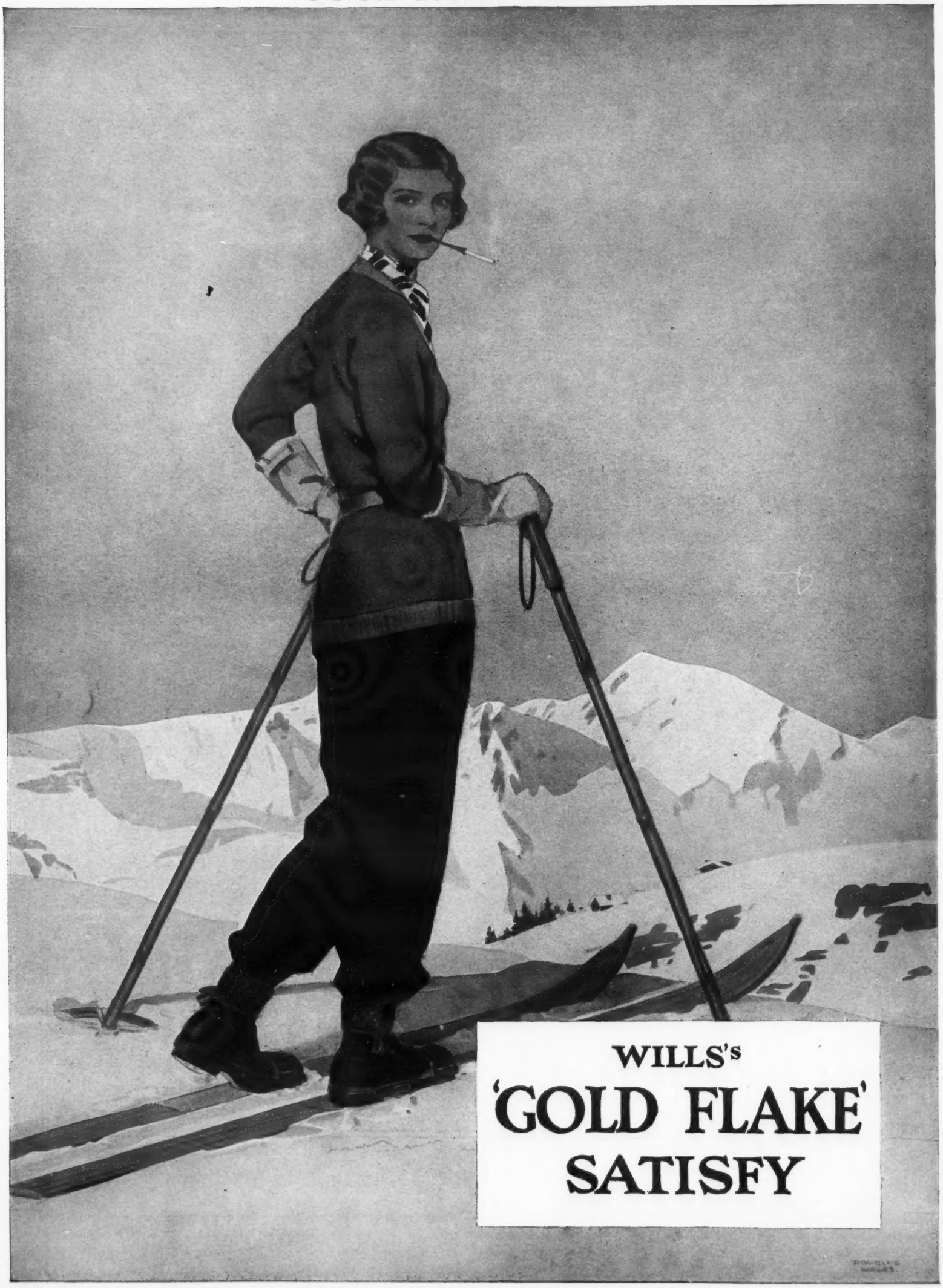
COOL AND FRESH